

How I Came to Be

Originally I started writing a book called “How I Came to Be”.

It began with some background, my Dad was Canadian, my mum was Irish, they met in England in World War Two. Some mention of my grandparents and general stuff setting the scene so I could be born in 1953.

Then the book progressed with chapters named things like “How I Came to Be an Idiot” and “How I Came to Be a Genius” and “How I Came to Be the Centre of the Last Great Witchcraft Trial in England”.

Y’know, that kind of stuff. We’ve all got stories to tell.

I got up to when I was 18 years old and then I ran into difficulties.

18 was the age when I had my first tragic, heart breaking, gut renching, disastrous, tragic (did I mention tragic?) intimate relationship and I didn’t know how to tell that story. It was too much. It was too real. It was too painful.

My writing stalled for a long time. A couple of years in fact.

In the meantime I uploaded to the internet what I’d written so far and wrestled with how to write the rest of it.

Eventually I found that the solution was to switch from first person narrative voice to third person. I told the tale of a character called “Pete” who sometimes went by the name of Wiz or “Wiz Wayland Smith” and all the difficult to write about stuff happened to him, instead of me.

Once I’d got through the hardest bit of the story I was able to switch back to first person voice again and continue.

After that it got much easier. I could write the autobiographical things and I could write the essays and the poetry and the fiction too.

So “How I Came to Be” turned into the book you are now reading. I previously thought that I would write an autobiography, then a book of poetry, then a fiction book, some short stories, some essays. Each of them would be a different book.

Now I realise that this is all one book which contains all the different bits because I’ve found my most natural form of writing and it is “a little bit of everything” kind of style.

I still need to write a few more pieces for the autobiographical part of it and I have some more fictional pieces to complete. Soon I will be re-reading and error fixing for a final version to upload.